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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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By:

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application filed herewith, please enter the following preliminary amendment, based on claims amended in prosecution of the international application and published in the International Preliminary Examination Report, a copy of which is enclosed.

Please find enclosed amended sheets 1-2 with amended patent claims 1-9, which were amended according to Article 34, Rule 66, during the preliminary examination procedure. The English translation of amended claims 1-9 is also enclosed.

**Amendments to the Specification.** A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.